

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

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DEPARTMENT PASS AFL-CIO AND AIFLD

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ELAB, CI
SUBJ: MORE REACTION TO MEANY LETTER

REF: SANTIAGO 6342

1. MINISTER OF LABOR VASCO COSTA PHONED AIFLD CPD
BRUCE JAY AUGUST 24 CONCERNING RECENT PROBLEMS IN HOLD-
ING AIFLD SEMINARS. MINISTER COSTA CONFIRMED THE NEED
TO ASK FOR AUTHORIZATION FROM THE LOCAL "INTENDENTES" WHO
JEALOUSLY GUARD THIS PREROGATIVE, WHETHER IT BE LEGAL OR
NOT. THE LABMIN ASSURED JAY THAT ALL COURSES WOULD BE
AUTHORIZED. HE LAMENTED THIS COMPLICATION AND BLAMED THIS
HARDLINE OF THE LOCAL MILITARY ON JAY'S PREDECESSOR CAMPOS.
HOWEVER, COSTA INSISTED THAT RELATIONS BETWEEN AIFLD AND
THE GOC WERE GOOD ANDIMPROVING.

2. THE LABMIN THEN SWITCHED TO THE ARTICLE IN THE AUGUST
24 "LA TERCERA" QUOTEING PARTS OF THE MEANY-TO-CARTER
LETTER ON CHILE. HE FIRST CLAIMED HE HAD NOT RECEIVED
A COPY OF THE LETER THROUGH OFFICIAL CHANNELS BUT
LATER ADMITTED THAT HE GOT A COPY FROM A QUOTE CHILEAN
UNQUOTE. HE DENIED THAT THIS WAS MORENO (CHILE LABATT
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IN WASH). THE LABMIN CLAIMED THAT HE HAD PROOF THAT
THE MEANY LETTER WAS PART OF THE KENNEDY CAMPAIGN AGAINST
CHILE. HE CONTRASTED THIS LETER WITH WHAT HE CONSIDERS
THE POSITIVE GLEASON AND AIFLD ATTITUDES ON CHILE AND
WOULD NOT ACEPT JAY'S ASSURANCES THAT THE AFL-CIO AT-
TITUDE WAS STRICTLY CONCERNED WITH TRADE UNION RIGHTS
AND UNRELATED TO ANY ANTI-CHILE MOVEMENT. THE LABMIN

PROMISED TO PUT TOGETHER HIS FACTS AND DEMONSTRATE THE GOC'S REASONING CONCERNING THE LINK BETWEEN THE AFL-CIO AND KENNEDY AT A LATER DATE.

3. VASCO COSTA DESCRIBED THE MEANY LETTER AS INSULTING AND A GROSS INTEVENTION IN THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF CHILE. HE FURTHER STATED THAT HE HOPED HE DIDN'T GET AN OFFICIAL COPY OF THE LETTER SINCE HE WOULD THEN BE FORCED TO RESPOND IN CAUSTIC TERMS.

4. MOVING ON, THE LABMIN MENTIONED JAY'S BREAKFAST WITH PLANNING MINISTER KELLY AND SAID THAT THESE BREAKFASTS WOULD CONTINUE WITH TRADE UNION LEADERS -- IF THEY WERE WILLING TO COME. HE RELATED THESE BREAKFASTS TO GOC POLICY ON WAGE RESTRAINT.

5. THE CONVERSATION ENED CORDIALLY WITH BOTH JAY AND THE MINISTER PROMISING TO CONSULT WITH EACH OTHER AND MAINTAIN COMMUNICCATION.

6. COMMENT: THE LABMIN HAS REASON TO BE UPSET OVER THE AFL-CIO POSITION SINCE IT RUNS COUNTER TO HIS RECENT PUBLIC STATEMENTS HERE. WHETHER PURPOSEFULLY OR FROM OPTIMISTIC SELF-DECEPTION HE HAS A TENDENCY TO PUT THE BEST POSSIBLE FACE ON GOC/AFL-CIO RELATIONS. COSTA INTIMATED THAT HIS VIEWS ON THE KENNEDY CONNEC-
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TION WITH AT LEAST SOME SECTORS OF THE AFL-CIO WERE SHARED AT HIGHER LEVELS OF THE GOC.

7. ACTION REQUESTED: JAY REQUESTS AIFLD/W AUTHORIZA-
TION TO ASK FOR PERMISSION FOR NEXT COURSE STARTING
SEPTEMBER 4, 1978.
LANDAU

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED ABOVE ADDRESSEES.

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